



# Hunter Education in Schools

## What is Hunter Education?

- Hunter Education (HE) is a legal certification required to hunt with a firearm in Wyoming, most other states, and many countries.
- The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) facilitates all hunter education for the state of Wyoming.
- It is a 12-18 hour curriculum that includes:
  - Hunter Responsibility and Ethics,
  - Wildlife Conservation and Management,
  - Firearms and Firearm Safety and Operation
  - Wyoming Game and Fish Rules and Regulations
  - Wildlife Identification
  - Outdoor Safety
  - Care of Game meat
- To earn a hunter education certificate, participants must:
  - Come to every class, participate and complete any assignments
  - Safely demonstrate firearm handling skills with inert firearms in a required handling practical
  - Pass a 50-question multiple choice test with 80% or higher
  - Some classes have the resources to host a live fire event at a shooting range, attending live fire if offered is optional.

## Why incorporate hunter education in your school?

Hunter Education when incorporated in schools gives students the tools to:

- Be safe and ethical hunters.
- Respect and safely handle firearms; decreasing firearm related injuries and accidents.
- Gain an understanding of how hunting is a wildlife management strategy that also sources food.
- Identify how their participation in hunting impacts the conservation of land and other natural resources.
- Safely explore the outdoors, gaining skills to respectfully observe wildlife in their habitats.

Hunter Education can apply to a wide range of standards in both Career and Vocational Education, Social Studies and Science:

- CTE Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster
  - Natural Resources System Pathway
- Wyoming Science Standards
  - MS-LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
  - MS-LS3: Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Wyoming Social Studies Standards
  - SS Content Standard 1 - Citizenship, Government, and Democracy
  - SS Content Standard 4 - Time, Continuity, and Change
  - SS Content Standard 5 - People, Places, and Environments



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## How do I incorporate hunter education into my school's curriculum?

- Gain appropriate administrative approval
- Have a willing licensed school teacher, para or coach in your district become certified as a Wyoming Hunter Education Instructor.
  - Trainings are held annually in the spring and summer - plan in advance for the upcoming year!
  - It's helpful if more than one teacher per school can get certified to team-teach.
  - It's helpful if the teacher has a firearm and/or hunting experience, but not necessary.
- This curriculum is recommended for 6th grade and up.
- Every school district can be flexible with the format as long as all required class components are included.
  - Some WY schools opt to include HE curriculum in the school day, such as PE.
  - Some WY schools offer HE 1-2 times per year as an afterschool program.
    - For example, one WY school completes HE in 3 weeks, meeting four days a week after school for 1 hour.
- Students must be registered through the WGFD website to obtain legal certification.

## What does it cost?

- There is no cost to become certified as an instructor - training workshops are free and hosted 3 times per year in varying locations around the state.
- There is a \$150 fee if teachers choose to get certified at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp.
- There is no cost for the required class materials. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will provide all student curricula and ship them to instructors as soon as they set up their digital class registration.
- There may be additional costs to the school, such as bus use for a live fire day or bussing for afterschool programs. These vary by the course implementation model chosen by the school.
- Educational materials, like inert firearms and wildlife pelts, may be checked out from regional WGFD offices.
- Lesson plans and digital slide shows are provided for free to all certified instructors.
- If school teachers decide to do a live fire range day, with enough notice, the WGFD can work with regional resources to borrow firearms, supply ammunition and eye and ear protection.



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## How teachers can become certified as Wyoming Hunter Education Instructors?

- Interested teachers must complete the following forms:
  - WGFD Volunteer Agreement
  - [WGFD Hunter Education Instructor Application](#)
    - This includes WGFD criminal and wildlife violations background checks
- Participate in policy and protocol training webinar
- Participate in **an in-person training instructor workshop** provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department
  - **Option 1:** Training Workshops will be offered for ANY volunteer in different locations across the state every spring.
    - Three workshops slated for Spring 2023 (February-May)
    - School teachers may attend these workshops.
    - Provided over a Thursday night, all day Friday and all day Saturday
    - Volunteers will have some meals provided and will be reimbursed for mileage or hotels
  - **Option 2:** Educator Camp at Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, Dubois, WY, July 11-14, 2023
    - This workshop is ONLY for school teachers and staff that plan to incorporate HE into the school.
    - \$150 for three nights, four days lodging and all meals
    - Free PTSB Credits
    - All teachers that participate in the "Hunter Education" track will be certified instructors and will be ready to implement HE in the schools by fall 2023
- If these training opportunities are missed, teachers must wait until the next year.

## Once certified, what is the responsibility of a hunter education Instructor?

- Reserve the venue (school in this case) for all tentative dates of the class.
- Set up the class registration through the [Wyoming Event Manager](#) website.
- Email or send home special registration instructions for students to get registered.
  - This registration is REQUIRED for students to receive their legal certification.
- Create the course schedule, plan when each curriculum component will be taught, and teach lessons.
- If an offsite shooting range day is allowed by the district it is your responsibility to reserve range time and reach out to the WGFD Hunter Education team to ask for additional certified instructors to assist.
- Administer firearm handling practical and the 50-question test.
- Contact local WGFD to have biologists or wardens come in as guest speakers.
- Manage roster, and report final grades and scores.

**SCAN TO GET STARTED**

